

CountryLiving

APRIL 2015

ONE-DAY MAKEOVERS!

**FRESH
KITCHEN
FINDS**

(Starting at \$20)

easy
**GARDEN
IDEAS**

**FAST
BEDROOM
UPDATES**

WIN A
WASHER
&
DRYER
page 43

Plus
**TASTY
EASTER
RECIPES!**





Where morning always comes way too soon.

Where big, thirsty towels await.

Where daily smile maintenance occurs. (Well, maybe not daily).



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APRIL 2015

Country Living

served fresh monthly!

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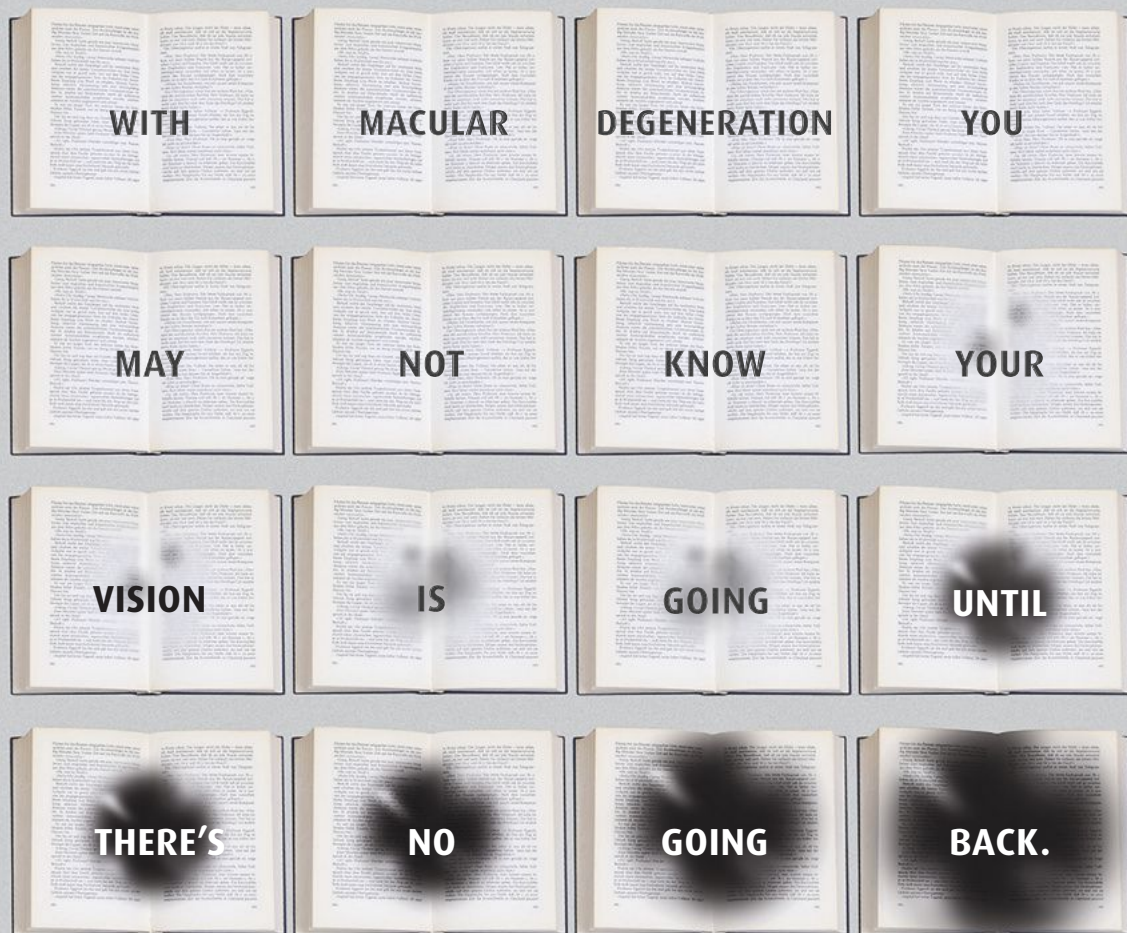
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ON THE COVER

Let our sunny potting shed inspire your backyard workspace (see page 44 for details). Photograph by Brian Woodcock; styling by Lindsey Ellis Beatty

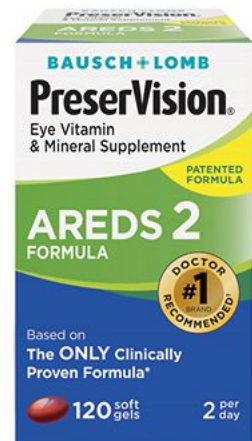


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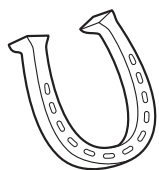
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Made of eggshells,
this cheeky chicken
sculpture is by
U.K. artist Kyle Bean.

Your Kind of Country



CAN YOU SPOT THE HORSESHOE IN THIS ISSUE?

If you find it, go to countryliving.com/win and you'll be entered for a chance to win the Samsung washer and dryer on page 43. (Retail value: \$2,198)

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. Find the Horseshoe Contest April 2015. Sponsored by Hearst Communications, Inc. Beginning February 24, 2015 at 12:01 AM (ET) through April 7, 2015 at 11:59 PM (ET), go to www.countryliving.com/win on a computer or wireless device and complete and submit the entry form pursuant to the on-screen instructions. Readers will submit what page number they found the hidden horseshoe on and answer the question on the entry form in one hundred words or less, "What does your dream laundry room look like?" Important Notice: You may be charged for visiting the mobile website in accordance with the terms of your service agreement with your carrier. One Winner will receive one Samsung WF5400 4.2 cu. Ft. Front Load Washer with Super Speed in Merlot and one Samsung DV5400 7.5 cu. Ft. Electric Front Load Dryer in Merlot (ARV: \$1,099.00 each). Odds of winning will depend upon the total number of eligible entries received. Open to legal residents of the 50 United States and the District of Columbia, who have reached the age of majority in their state or territory of residence at time of entry. Legal residents of Canada (excluding Quebec) who have reached the aforementioned age in their province of residence at time of entry are also eligible to enter. Void in Puerto Rico and where prohibited by law. Sweepstakes subject to complete official rules available at www.countryliving.com/win.

If you ask each of our 12 million readers to define "country style," chances are you'll get almost as many answers. Even the spaces in our "Style That Lasts" package (page 54)—all classic in their own way—reflect different types of country. For designer Bailey McCarthy (page 54), it's a Texas farmhouse filled with traditional fabrics, spindle furniture, and a bit of whimsy. (Check out her daughter's room on page 62!) For stylist Ingrid Leess, it's a Connecticut cottage filled with calming neutrals, natural textures, and collectibles. (Don't miss her wall of whiteware on page 72.) And for author Charlotte Moss, it's a New York garden filled with climbing roses, winding paths, and quiet spots to sit. (I particularly love the willow bench on page 71.) After all, if our homes—and gardens—are truly personal

expressions of our quirky, idiosyncratic selves, it makes sense that there's no one definition of country—that its interpretation can be as vast as the wide-open spaces we crave. And even if someone else's spin on country isn't right up your alley (or dirt road!), there's almost always a nugget of an idea to inspire your own unique take. For example, maybe you'll be motivated to paint an accent wall a deep green shade (page 60), decorate with demijohns (page 75), or plant a few boxwoods (page 67). Whatever you do, I know it will be perfect, because, as it turns out, the only "right" way to do country is your own.*

Rachel
Rachel Hardage Barrett
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Readers Weigh In! Every Country Home Needs...

A porch swing? A loyal dog? A sentimental family heirloom? We recently asked our Facebook fans (2 million and counting!) to fill in the blank. More than 2,000 of you chimed in. Here are some of our favorite responses.



◀ "A tire swing. This one's a big hit at our place!"

Deborah Maerzke (Editor's Note: Deborah, that's one beautiful backyard!)

"A staircase bannister—the quick and fun way to get down stairs as a child." Debbie Mellott

"A cast-iron skillet!" Jennifer Nicole Erickson

"A four-legged companion." Becky Andrews Madison

"Abundant windows that let in the morning sunrise and the filtered light of a lazy afternoon."

Deanna Nichols

"Hand-picked wildflowers in a Mason jar."

Stephanie Sattenfield

"A clothesline with sheets flapping in the air." Tee Wellons (Tee, see page 42)

"A rooster to provide the sound track."

Paula O'Reilly

"Muddy boots." Amy Pearce (Amy, see page 11)

"A deep claw-foot bathtub." Barb Hasson-Brown

"A screen door with squeaky hinges!" Anna York Marcum (Anna, see page 40)

"An American flag whipping in the spectacular view." Deena Pryor Fife

"Me, to come home from my deployment and snuggle on the couch and watch a movie with my daughter." Todd Hulen (Editor's Note: Todd, the movies are in the mail!)

"The pitter-patter of little feet." Lynann Emerick-Eller

"A horseshoe above the front door, turned upward so it can catch all the good luck floating down." Stephanie Johnson Ingram

"An antique Magic Chef stove." Lisa Hatcher Plug (Lisa, see page 23)

"A big old wood table with a story." Violet Winfield

"One big tree that shares in the memories." Megan Shannon

"A family to bring it to life." Nonna Abel

"Someone to love it back." Juliet Viney

***We want to see your kind of country! Share your favorite country room with us at countryliving@hearst.com.**



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Dear Country Living

WHAT YOU HAD TO SAY ABOUT OUR FEBRUARY ISSUE. PLUS: RESCUE DONKEYS!



Feedback

"I loved February's 'Small of Fame' section [page 46] featuring tiny houses. This summer, I finally realized my dream of having a backyard studio. Although it's only 12' x 14', I have spent many enjoyable hours working on it and in it—it's like my private getaway at home!"

—Barbara Stratton, Columbia, MO



"So excited to see 'Bring Back Spongeware' in the February issue [page 16]! My obsession began last year when I came across a beautiful 12-inch ceramic bowl at an antiques store. Something about the simple style of these pieces just makes me smile. Thanks for letting me know I'm not alone in my nostalgia."

—Maria Witte, Jenison, MI



SHOW US YOUR COUNTRY LIVING!

Reader Ashley McCormick of Orlando, FL, recently shared her favorite way to rise and shine: "Best way to start the day is with breakfast and *Country Living* magazine!" Post how and where you kick back with your issue on Instagram, and tag your photos with the hashtag **#MYCOUNTRYLIVING**

Pets of the Month

Adopted from Little Long Ears Miniature Donkey Rescue, best buds Joey, 1, and Teddy, 5, reside in Clifton, VA, with reader Mary Harris. When they're not munching on peppermints (their favorite treat!), they can be found kicking around a soccer ball.



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The CHECK List

COMPLETELY FUN, NO-OBLIGATION WAYS TO ENJOY THE COUNTRY THIS MONTH!

No 1

GET A LITTLE MUD ON YOUR BOOTS!

Embrace April showers—
and the subsequent
puddles—with the
rainy day finds on the
next page.

(more on page 12) >>



ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

No 1

CONTINUED

RAINY DAY FINDS

Fun and functional picks that are right as, well, rain.



PIG UMBRELLA

These little piggies will keep you dry, dry, dry all the way home. \$40; sfumbrella.com

RAINDROP ICE TRAY

Consider this the perfect excuse to whip up a Dark & Stormy. \$12; artlebedev.com



UMBRELLA STAND

At 18 1/2 inches deep, this glossy white terra-cotta piece adds subtle charm to an entry or mudroom. \$90; zgallerie.com



TEA INFUSER

Don't all drizzly days call for tea? \$16; animicausa.com



POLKA-DOT RAINCOAT

A matching pouch means you can toss it in your tote when the sun resurfaces. \$60; modcloth.com



BULLETIN BOARD

Keep your head in the clouds with this 16-inch-wide message center. \$20; landofnod.com



FABRIC

This cotton fabric is perfect for a rainy day craft project. \$17.50/yard; spoonflower.com



WATERPROOF FLATS

A sleek option for the wellie-heeled set. \$68; ja-vie.com



DOG RAIN JACKET

Lined with soft fleece so Fido stays dry and warm on wet weather walks. \$29.50; landsend.com

No 2

TRY A NEW TWIST ON EASTER EGGS

Plain old dye? Been there, dipped that. Hatch a new decorating scheme with these just-as-easy ideas.



A. ROBIN'S EGG

To create the base color shown above, add two drops of green food coloring to standard blue egg dye, and then dye egg. Once dry, dip a fine-tipped paintbrush in a small bowl of brown liquid ink (available at craft stores) and splatter on the egg.

B. PAPER NAPKIN EGG

Unfold a paper napkin and cut into 1/2-inch-wide strips. Use Mod Podge and a small paintbrush to adhere strips to the egg, lining up the pattern and trimming away any excess napkin. Once covered, let dry, then apply a final coat of Mod Podge.

C. TWINE EGG

Use a small paintbrush to apply crafter's glue onto the top of an egg. Starting in the center of the top, wrap twine (we used four-ply) into a tight circle. Continue to brush on glue and wrap the egg until it is completely covered. (You will use approximately 12 feet of twine.) Trim excess.



COUNTRY COMEBACK

No 3

UPDATE YOUR CHINA CABINET

The grande dame of the dining room—like the one featured on our Fall 1979 cover—has never been more popular. Check out our top picks.



Apothecary
Cabinet, \$1,790;
[stockand
trade.com](http://stockandtrade.com)

MAIN PHOTOGRAPH, MAGAZINE, AND PLATES: DAVID HILLEGAS.

These pieces (all less than \$1,000) pair perfectly with some of our favorite new china patterns.



▲ CLASSIC

Cabinet: Robin's Nest Cabinet, \$999; urbanhome.com
China: Belle Bianca Beaded Dinner Plate, \$47, and Belle Bianca Pique Salad Plate, \$36; arteitalica.com



▲ CASUAL

Cabinet: Sliding Glass Case, \$226; amazon.com
China: 1815 Dinner Plate in Green, \$20, and 1815 Salad Plate in Red, \$14; royaldoulton.com



▲ RUSTIC

Cabinet: Jofran Display Stand, \$658; wayfair.com
China: Savona Dinner Plate, \$30, and Savona Side Plate, \$25; mikasa.com



▲ CONTEMPORARY

Cabinet: Craal Black Cabinet, \$399; crateandbarrel.com
China: Fandoline Dinner Plate, \$24, and Fandoline Salad Plate, \$16; anthropologie.com



▲ ROMANTIC

Cabinet: Liatorp in Gray, \$329; ikea.com
China: Field of Flowers Dinner Plate, \$47, and Field of Flowers Tulips Party Plate, \$27; juliska.com



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No 4

SCORE AN ALL-AMERICAN FIND

Nashville's Mitchell Bat Co. transforms baseball bats into hand-painted works of art.

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FOR JEREMY MITCHELL, breaking into the bespoke bat business happened overnight. On a whim, he posted his prototype on Instagram during game six of the 2013 World Series and sold his first two bats the very next day. Today, orders pour in to his Nashville studio, where he sands and paints each bat. \$195 each; mitchellbatco.com

No 5

REVIVE THE LOST ART OF... DROPPING BY

What ever happened to the impromptu visit? You know, the kind where you swing by a friend's house spur of the moment just because you happened to be in the neighborhood? Sure, the idea of someone showing up, unannounced, at your home may send shivers up your spine, but the world, with all of its hyper-scheduled, over-committed, I-can-maybe-squeeze-you-in-on-Thursday attitude, could use a little more spontaneous conversation and good ol' neighborliness.



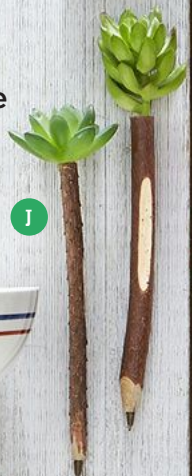
MAIN IMAGE, GETTY IMAGES. BATS, DAVID HILLEGAS.



No 6

SNATCH UP A DEAL

At \$25 or less, these
assorted finds add ample
charm for a bargain.



A. ENAMEL HOUSE NUMBERS

\$17 each; kaufman-mercantile.com

B. BUTTER DISH

\$14; givesimple.com

C. GARDEN TOOL SALAD SERVERS

\$25 with code TUVALU
FORCL; tuvaluhome.com

D. BICYCLE SEAT COVER

\$15; begbicycles.com

E. ESSENTIAL OIL SOAPS \$10 each;

shopbird.com

F. SHIRT COLLAR BOOK MARK

\$6; mochithings.com

G. WALL HOOKS

\$14 each; westelm.com

H. HERB SNIPS

\$20; shopterrain.com

I. CERAMIC BOWL

\$14; treatygeneralstore.com

J. SUCCULENT PENS

\$7 each; Warwick's,
858-454-0347

No 7

REACH FOR NAVY AND WHITE.

Spring accessories take a striking turn in this classic, fool-proof combo.



BUTTON EARRINGS
\$4.50; lulabelleandco.etsy.com



FLOPPY HAT
\$48; echodesign.com



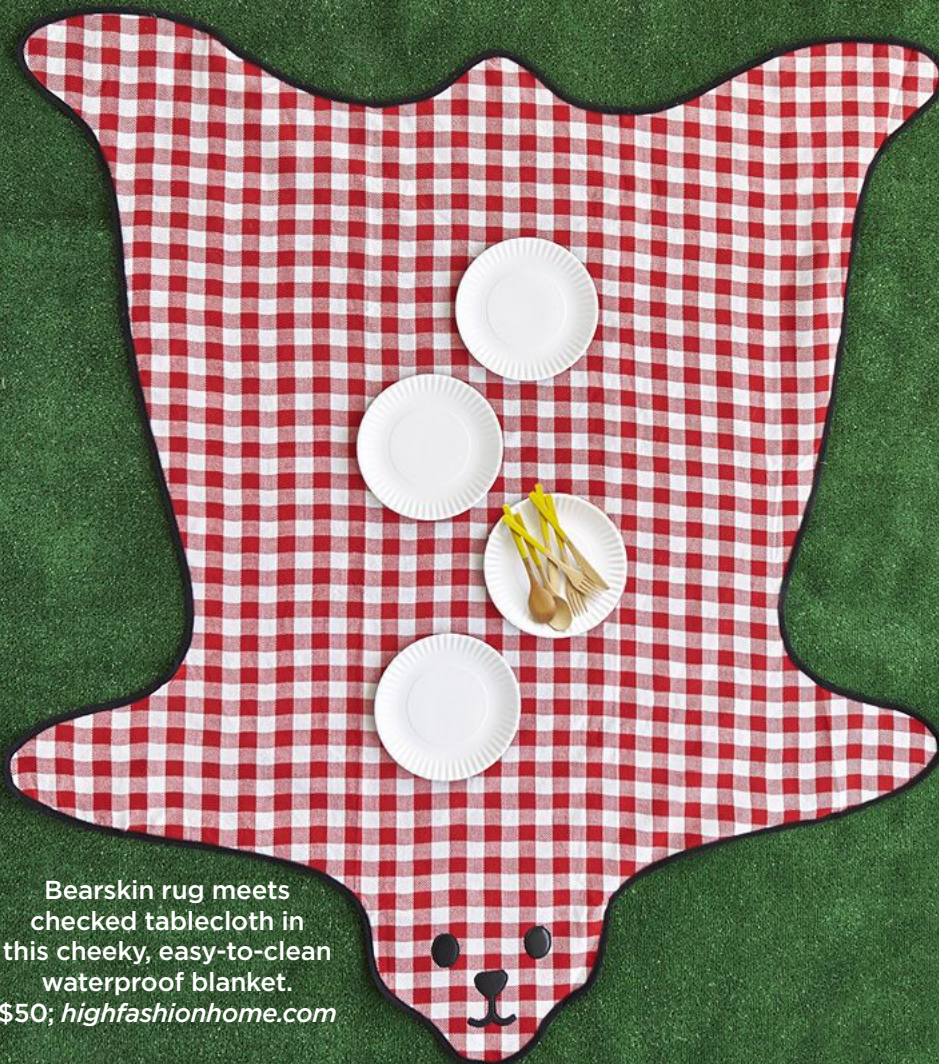
SATCHEL BAG
\$59; kohls.com



SLIP-ON SNEAKERS
\$79.50; talbots.com

No 8

HOST A ROARIN' PICNIC

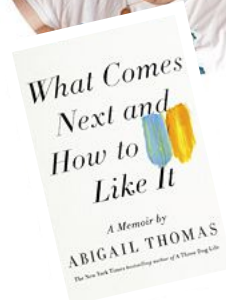


Bearskin rug meets checked tablecloth in this cheeky, easy-to-clean waterproof blanket.
\$50; highfashionhome.com

No 9

CURL UP WITH A GOOD BOOK

CL contributor Ann Patchett shares her favorite new read.



"I fell in love with Abigail Thomas's 2006 book *A Three Dog Life*. Her latest, **What Comes Next and How to Like It** [\$24], is the story of how she manages to survive all the beauty and sadness life has given her. If you only read one book this year, make it this one."

Order a signed copy of this book from Ann's independent bookshop, *Parnassus Books* (parnassusbooks.net).

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MY KIND OF COUNTRY

No 10

GET TO KNOW...

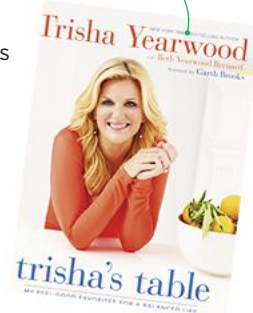
TRISHA YEARWOOD

The country music star and *New York Times* best-selling cookbook author shares her spring favorites. Pick up her latest cookbook, *Trisha's Table*, out March 31.

KITCHEN ESSENTIAL

"Recipe cards! Having all my family recipes in one place inspired my first cookbook."

Printable Recipe Card, free download; lovevsdesign.com/printables



BEST THRIFTING FIND

"A perfectly worn-in, handmade apron—I never want to take it off!" **Apron**, \$21; silverfrosthands.made.etsy.com



SWEETEST TRADITION

"Every family member gets their favorite cake on their birthday. My husband (Garth Brooks) always picks German chocolate." **Mail-Order Cake**, \$40; carouseltcakes.com



SECRET WEAPON

"I swear by witch hazel for dewy skin. It's far more soothing and affordable than anything else I've tried." **Witch Hazel**, \$8; walmart.com



SUCKER FOR

"Fresh boiled peanuts! They taste like home." **Boiled Peanuts**, \$4; igourmet.com



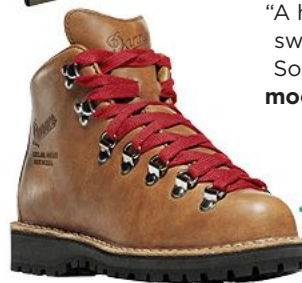
BACKYARD ESSENTIALS

"A hammock and a glass of sweet tea never steer this Southerner wrong!" **Hammock**, \$219; hayneedle.com



FAVORITE COUNTRY ESCAPE

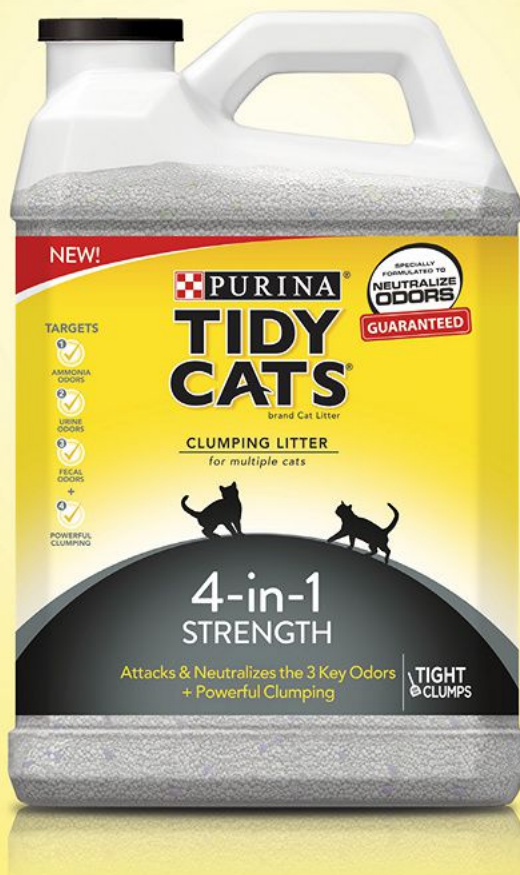
"I love to take my pups hiking on the trails on our property in Oklahoma. It's how I recharge." **Danner Boots**, \$299; rei.com



NEW!

Terrible litter odor?
Take a deep breath and count to 4.

There's a



for that.

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Messy Clumps

Every Home. Every Cat. There's a Tidy Cats For That.™
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thrill of the hunt

— ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES, AND OTHER ONE-OF-A-KIND FINDS —

THE COLLECTOR'S GUIDE TO **Antique Stoves**

Chambers

Sure, they're expensive, but they don't make these built-to-last beauties like they used to. Sturdy and striking, these smart appliances cook up serious style.

All prices in this story reflect refurbished, functional models (sourced from *antiqueappliances.com* in Clayton, GA). You can find non-working models that need some fixing up for as little as \$500 on Ebay and Craigslist.

1952 CHAMBERS

(See page 25) >>



1918 GARLAND

Originally priced at \$900 (double the cost of a then-new Ford Model T!), this top-of-the-line baker and boiler was found only in wealthy homes and fancy hotel kitchens. Today, any pre-WWII-era stove of this size (a full 6 feet wide!) with six burners and multiple ovens is a rare find. Value: \$20,000



1926 HOTPOINT

This scarce specimen (only seven are known to exist) was one of the first electric models. Technically advanced, the coiled heating elements are nearly identical to those of 21st-century stoves. Long legs add decorative flair, while a porcelain-coated steel allows for easy cleaning. Value: \$18,000



1934 MAGIC CHEF

Noted industrial designer Frank Alvah Parsons created this gas-fueled looker, complete with a tile-like porcelain exterior and Bakelite handles. Intended to appeal to female consumers, it also includes coveted innovations such as a temperature-control knob. Value: \$5,800



1949 O'KEEFE & MERRITT

After World War II, vibrant colors and shiny chrome came into vogue. Thanks to flashy features—a griddle for pancakes, a “grillelevator” that lowered food close to flames for indoor barbecuing, and built-in salt and pepper shakers—this brand still has a cult following. Value: \$8,900



1953 WESTERN HOLLY

This green number features a gas-powered range, as well as a rotisserie cooker and an electric light and fan (both novel at the time). At 46 inches, it's wide—even by 1950s standards. Built-in cabinets with standardized sizes for stoves first appeared in kitchens during that decade. At 37.5 inches wide, the 1952 Chambers (shown on page 23) is more representative of this shift in size. Value: \$8,900 for Western Holly; \$7,400 for Chambers

NEW STOVES WITH CLASSIC LOOKS

With top-of-the-line materials and a multitude of head-turning hues, these brands are putting an antique spin on brand spankin' new appliances. (Prices are for models shown)

Special reader discount! Get 10% off with code RETRO-TEN

BIG CHILL

Assembled in Reading, Pennsylvania, these sleek specimens feature honest-to-goodness chrome and can accommodate an industrial-size baking sheet. **30" Retro Stove**, available in 8 colors. From \$4,295; bigchill.com

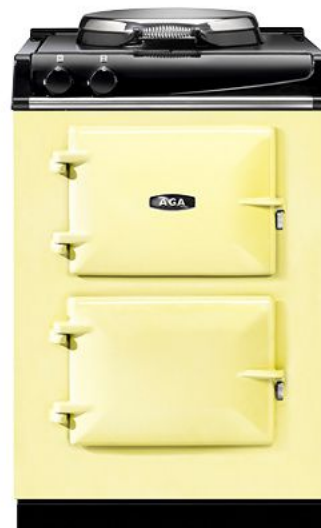


ELMIRA STOVEWORKS

Rich colors, curvy legs, and nickel trim, including a Victorian-inspired trivet above the range, make this model feel more like a fine piece of furniture than an appliance. **Antique Range**, available in 7 colors. From \$5,695; elmirastove.com

LA CORNUE

With stately hardware and double doors, the old-world charm of this French import belies modern features such as an oven with seven cooking modes. **Château 120**, available in 26 colors. From \$8,600; lacornueusa.com



AGA

At only 24 inches wide, this sunny cast-iron number packs in all the charm of a vintage stove without a bulky frame. Bonus: Individually heated oven units maximize your cook space. **City 24**, Available in 15 colors. From \$8,199; aga-ranges.com

RETRO STYLE AT A STEAL

Add vintage flair for \$25 or less!



Lemons, \$10; surlatable.com



French Stripe, \$19; williams-sonoma.com



Polka Dot, \$14; anthropologie.com



Denim, \$13; jessiesteele.com



Peony Stripe, \$25; truehomecomfort.com



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As the nation's premier nonprofit environmental law organization, Earthjustice takes on the biggest, most important court cases across the country—cases that preserve the wild, fight for healthy communities, advance clean energy and combat climate change.

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What Is It? What Is It Worth?

Our antiques specialists appraise
your finds and collectibles.



“This was once my
aunt’s favorite dress;
now it’s mine!
The label reads ‘GiGi
Young Originals.’
Can you tell me more
about the designer? ”

— L.K., SMITHVILLE, MS
(See page 30 for appraisal) >>





WHAT IT IS:
GIGI YOUNG DRESS

This dress's feminine silhouette epitomizes the popular "fit-and-flare" style of the 1950s. It also showcases the fine fabric and craftsmanship of the era, says Marsha Dixey of Heritage Auctions. As a little-sister label to the sophisticated Suzy Perette Company, GiGi Young Originals was marketed to teens and twentysomethings. The line was produced from the early 1950s to 1966; while it frequently knocked off designs from Paris couture houses such as Dior, it still established a credible reputation within the fashion world. Though this specimen isn't particularly rare, its excellent condition brings in a respectable value.

WHAT IT'S WORTH:
\$200



"This working watch was passed down from my great-grandmother, Madeleine. Can you tell me the maker?"

—C.D., EAST HAMPTON, NY

WHAT IT IS:
VACHERON & CONSTANTIN COCKTAIL WATCH

The serial number located on the back of this item dates it to 1895-1900 and indicates it was crafted by Swiss watchmaker Vacheron & Constantin, one of the world's oldest watchmakers. The brand name alone is a mark of quality, explains antiques expert Helaine Fendelman, and this diamond-and-sapphire-embellished piece is a particularly fine specimen. Made during a transitional moment in design, it shows both Victorian (those roses!) and Art Deco (that shape!) elements.

WHAT IT'S WORTH:
\$7,500

"I bought this cute item at a yard sale for \$5. I know some people collect cookie jars. Is this one of any interest?"

—S.S., LAUGHLIN, NV

WHAT IT IS:
AMERICAN BISQUE COOKIE JAR

Based in West Virginia, American Bisque was the most prolific maker of cookie jars in the 20th century. Today, the company's jars are a favorite collectible. This beret-sporting baby chick shows off the company's skillful use of airbrushed glazing, says Marsha Dixey of Heritage Auctions. Identifying the manufacturer's wares can be difficult because it marked the bases of its pieces with "USA" instead of a backstamp. Bearing those letters, this chicken is the real deal.

WHAT IT'S WORTH:
\$65



| GUESS THE WORTH |

Talk about a glorious feeling! Last year, the largest known *Singin' in the Rain* movie poster sold for:

a) \$3,500 b) \$8,000 c) \$12,500

»» SEE PAGE 33 TO SEE IF YOU GUESSED CORRECTLY! ««

"This table is marked '1887 1/2.' Is that a reference to the year it was made?"

—I.L., IOLA, KS

**WHAT IT IS:
DEMILUNE TABLE**

This mahogany half-moon-shaped piece was factory-made in the United States in the 1930s. The stamped digits on the back are the model number. (The "1/2" indicates it was originally a two-part set.) There were so many American factories producing wooden furnishings at the time that it's impossible to identify the maker, explains Marsha Bemko of *Antiques Roadshow*, who consulted with show appraiser LaGina M. Austin. Though pretty, this table is not rare and doesn't yield a high estimate.

WHAT IT'S WORTH:

\$100



"What was the original purpose of these ornate pieces?"

—M.C., FRASER, CO

**WHAT IT IS:
GERMAN CONSOLE SET**

Porcelain trios, called console sets, graced American dining tables and sideboards from the late 1800s through the 1950s. They consisted of two candlesticks flanking a bowl for flowers, says panelist Helaine Fendelman. The rococo revival style and the word "Dresden" on the bottom pegs this example to the German city of the same name circa 1900.

WHAT IT'S WORTH:

\$50



| GUESS THE WORTH |

A painting of famed character Peter Rabbit, completed by Beatrix Potter in 1929, was recently valued at:

a) \$15,500 b) \$37,000 c) \$62,500

»» SEE PAGE 33 TO SEE IF YOU GUESSED CORRECTLY! —>



"I've been told these striking glasses are from Austria. Can you tell me their history?"

—E.F., FERNANDINA BEACH, FL

**WHAT IT IS:
MEYR'S NEFFE CORDIAL GLASSES**

Made between 1907 to 1911 by the Austrian glass company Meyr's Neffe, these valuable goblets were used for drinking cordials, explains Marsha Bemko of *Antiques Roadshow*, who consulted with show appraiser Arlie Sulka. Noted designer Otto Prutscher created similar stemware for Meyr's Neffe at this time. If they were his design, they'd yield up to four times the amount, notes Marsha.

WHAT IT'S WORTH:

\$2,250 for three



"I have 22 of these painted Easter eggs. Do you know what era they're from?"

—S.H., MIAMI, FL

WHAT IT IS:
MILK GLASS EASTER EGGS

These delicate handblown milk glass eggs were originally sold blank so that Victorian ladies could embellish them with spring greetings and scenes. Over time, the sentiments were usually damaged by washing or handling, says Marsha Dixey of Heritage Auctions. This group, however, is in great condition with minimal wear.

WHAT IT'S WORTH:
\$775 for the set

"I bought this game off eBay on a whim. Is it a rare find?"

—W.W., NICEVILLE, FL

WHAT IT IS:
GEE-WIZ HORSE RACE

This low-tech tin toy hails from the 1920s. Made by the Wolverine Supply & Manufacturing Company, it features a simple flywheel that launches tiny horses out of a starting gate. The first pony to reach the end of the track and raise a flag is the winner. Though there are many examples on the market, the original packaging adds significant value, says Helaine Fendelman.

WHAT IT'S WORTH:
\$250



"I bought this nearly 4-foot-wide trunk for \$350 at an antiques show. Did I overpay?"

—G.M., DELMAR, DE



WHAT IT IS:
SARATOGA TRUNK

This stunning item dates to the 1870s, when luggage had to withstand wagon travel, says Marsha Dixey. The interior has multiple storage compartments and is fully lined with its original lithographed paper. The large size is impressive but hardly surprising: Wealthy people of this era typically decamped for the entire summer to places like Saratoga Springs, New York, the popular warm-weather destination for which this dome-topped style is named.

WHAT IT'S WORTH:
\$700

| GUESS THE WORTH |

Play ball! The world's rarest, and most valuable, baseball card is that of 1909 Pittsburgh Pirates player Honus Wagner. It scores an estimate of:

a) \$150,000 b) \$675,000 c) \$2.8 million

»» SEE PAGE 33 TO SEE IF YOU GUESSED CORRECTLY! —>

SPONSORED BY CHEVROLET

New Finds

April is a month of renewal—so what better time to add a few fresh finds to your life? *CountryLiving.com* Senior Editor *Lauren Matthews* shares five favorite things that celebrate easy living and warmer weather.



①

GO TO SEED: Chia seeds are loaded with healthy omega-3s and protein—and the yummy, refreshing drinks from Mamma Chia help those tiny seeds go down easy.

Mamma Chia beverage (1), \$3; **Chia Squeeze** (1), \$1.79; mammachia.com



②

"Built-in features include a battery-powered blender."



④



③

UP A CREEK: Whether canoeing is on your summer bucket list or you're just looking to add some American-made charm to the walls of your lake home, this paddle from the Sanborn Canoe Company is undeniably eye-catching.

Askov Finlayson Coddington Paddle (2), \$160; askovfinlayson.com

COOL WORLD: Whether you're relaxing on the beach or tailgating, the high-tech Coolest Cooler definitely lives up to its name: Built-in features include a battery-powered blender, a USB charger and a magnetic bottle opener, just to name a few.

Coolest Cooler (3), \$399-\$499; coolest.com

CUT CLUTTER: Tight on kitchen space? Here's one solution: KitchenAid's Adjustable Measuring Tablespoon means you'll never have to keep track of multiple measuring spoons again.

KitchenAid Adjustable Measuring Spoon (4), \$7.95; williams-sonoma.com

A MESSAGE FROM

CHEVROLET EQUINOX

ULTIMATE VERSATILITY IN A STYLISH PACKAGE. THE 2015 CHEVROLET EQUINOX OFFERS THOUGHTFULLY DESIGNED SPACE FOR PASSENGERS AND CARGO. PLUS, IT'S WELL EQUIPPED—OFFERING BUILT-IN 4G LTE* TECHNOLOGY TO KEEP YOU CONNECTED.



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OF WHAT LIES AHEAD.**



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Equinox with available Forward Collision Alert has been named an IIHS 2014 Top Safety Pick+, which means you can find your favorite places with fewer worries. When you set out to Find New Roads, you become the most awarded car company of the year.

2014 IIHS TOP SAFETY PICK+

FIND NEW ROADS™

CHEVROLET 

"My father brought this painting home from France after World War II. It's signed L. Reimer and dated 1946. Is this a noted artist?"

—R.S., TROY, IN

WHAT IT IS:

AMATEUR WATERCOLOR

While L. Reimer is not an artist of note, the painting is of some interest due to its World War II connections. "There are many such examples of work by amateur artists who were consoled by painting and other mediums during and after war," says Marsha Bemko of *Antiques Roadshow*, who consulted with show appraiser Colleene Fesko.

WHAT IT'S WORTH:

\$75



MEET OUR COLLECTING PANEL

MARSHA BEMKO
ANTIQUES ROADSHOW

HELAINE FENDELMAN
APPRAISERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

MARSHA DIXEY
HERITAGE AUCTIONS

MIKE WOLFE
AMERICAN PICKERS

**HAVE YOUR
FIND APPRAISED!**

For a chance to be included, send a picture of your latest score to wiiw@countryliving.com

SAVE THE DATE!

**The Country Living Fair
Goes to Nashville!**

We're headed to Music City April 24-26 for antiques shopping, food and craft demonstrations, and appearances by CL contributors (including "What Is It Worth" panelist Mike Wolfe!). Check out finds readers have snatched up at past fairs below, and visit countryliving.com/nashville to plan your own visit. See you there!



Ellany Crowe (left) and Carley Anderson picked up a ladder, a grainsack pillow, and birch logs.



Stephanie Alexander found these metal letters for the kitchen in her West Tennessee farmhouse.



Brittany Spriggs, and her yellow Lab (a service dog in training), scored a sweet pink dollhouse.



Misti England (left) and Yasna Grainger both fell for a red barn painting. Luckily there were two!

Country Listings

From hand-hewn beams to sun-drenched decks, these six barns-turned-homes offer scenic spots to hit the hay.



◀ MIDDLETOWN, CT

\$144,900

Only partially renovated, this 1,007-square-foot classic red barn has the potential to expand well beyond its current one-bedroom footprint. *Agent: Laura Bitondo; bhhsneproperties.com*



DEERFIELD, MA ▶

\$399,900

Bring on the houseguests! Five bedrooms, a back deck, and a pool make this 1,418-square-footer the perfect spot for entertaining. *Agent: Jacqui Zuzgo; jacquelinezuzgo.com*



▲ SOUTH HAVEN, MI

\$424,900

Located on 20 lush acres, this 100-year-old, 1,800-square-foot home boasts a two-story great room (complete with woodburning stove) and a bright white chef's kitchen. *Agent: Steve Earls; shoresofsouthhaven.com*

CHATTANOOGA, TN ▶

\$345,000

This historic home once served as the barn of a large estate. Today, the 3,275-square-foot abode touts exposed original stone walls, heart pine timbers, and a dreamy master retreat. *Agent: Charlotte Mabry; kw.com*



CANTON, GA ▶

\$214,000

The 2,736 square feet of living space and 10 1/2 acres of land more than make up for the TLC needed to bring this conversion up to date. *Agent: Jimmy Crow; kw.com*



▲ HOLLAND TOWNSHIP, NJ

\$449,900

Outfitted with windows overlooking a pond, this 2,880-square-foot dwelling is one barn we'd proudly say we were raised in. *Agent: Robert Beatty; weichert.com*



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INSPIRING IDEAS FOR IN AND AROUND THE HOUSE

Spring Up Your Space!

So long, winter! Here are seven ways to infuse your home—from the front door to the back porch—with a breath of fresh country air.



ON THE FRONT DOOR

Hang Up Your Boots— Filled With Flowers

Install a metal grommet (grommet kit, \$8; homedepot.com) on the back of each rain boot. Loop a piece of burlap ribbon through grommets. Place a 3-inch-wide cylindrical vase in both boot heels; stabilize with tissue paper if needed. Fill vase with water and seasonal blooms. (We used a mix of hydrangeas and daisies.) Tie ends of ribbon together and hang on a nail.



2

IN THE ENTRY

Revive an Old Piece with Botanicals

Make paper photocopies of a botanical fabric, then use a utility knife to cut out desired portions of the print. With dresser drawers closed and pulls removed, map out placement of botanicals, then decoupage to dresser using a medium-strength adhesive like Mod Podge (available at craft stores). Once dry, carefully run a razor blade between drawers so they open properly. Finish with a coat of clear acrylic sealant.

3

IN THE LIVING ROOM

Freshen Up Your Sofa with Floral Pillows

These feminine fabrics give neutral furniture a fresh-from-the-garden makeover. Tip: All you need is a yard of fabric to make a 16" x 16" throw pillow.

- 1. Gazebo Cornflower** \$30/yard; calicocorners.com
- 2. Rosa** \$219/yard; raoultextiles.com for stores
- 3. Udaipur** in Indigo, \$137/yard; peterdunhamtextiles.com for stores
- 4. Asters Honey** \$15/yard; joann.com
- 5. Malindi Floral** in Blossom, \$20/yard; lsfabrics.com
- 6.** For similar styles, try joann.com
- 7. English Garden Fabric** \$32/yard; minted.com



For a tonal effect that adds depth without overpowering the space, choose two similar shades of one color.

Headboard: Haven, Sherwin-Williams;
Wall: Apple Blossom, Benjamin Moore



4

IN THE BEDROOM

Build a Trellis Headboard

Using 1-by-4-inch boards, construct a frame with desired height and width (ours measures 6 1/2 feet tall and extends 1 inch beyond the mattress on each side).

Have your hardware store cut a piece of garden lattice to fit within the frame and affix to back with finishing nails. Use a picture hanger to mount a small mirror three quarters of the way up the headboard. Paint assembled piece in desired color.

5

IN THE YARD

Make a Bird Feeder Out of Dinnerware

Drill a $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch hole in the center of a melamine dinner plate, bowl, and salad plate. Thread a piece of $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch-thick rope (the length will depend on how high you want to hang the feeder) through a peg-style clothespin, leaving about 3 inches of rope below the pin. Thread the opposite end of rope through the salad plate, bowl (both should be right-side up), and a $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch-wide by 10-inch-long copper pipe. Next, thread the rope through the dinner plate (the plate should be upside-down). To finish, thread a second clothespin directly above the dinner plate and shimmy the pins toward the plates to snap bird feeder into place.



6

IN THE KITCHEN

Replace a Pantry Door with a Screened Door

This switch adds eye-catching country character to the kitchen. For an even bigger impact, paint it a cheerful hue (try Byte Blue by Sherwin-Williams). The small surface area requires only a sample-size pot of paint to get the job done.





We found these bright, vintage colanders on Etsy!

7

ON THE PORCH

Convert a Colander Into a Planter

Wrap one colander handle tightly with a half-yard of twine, pushing pieces together as you go to avoid gaps. Once covered, tie off and add a dab of glue to secure. Knot a yard of twine at each end of the handle. Repeat entire process with opposite handle. Next, line the colander with sheet moss and fill with potting soil and seasonal plants. (We used ferns and pansies.) Tie four lengths of twine together and hang.



Bring the Outside

CLOTHESLINE, LIVING4MEDIA / JALAG-SYNDICATION, OPPOSITE PAGE - HANGERS, GLASS CANISTER, DRYER BALLS, AND CLOTHESPINS, DAVID HILLEGAS.

→ Inside!

We used this photo of blankets on the line to pull together floor-to-ceiling looks for a pretty **LAUNDRY ROOM**.



HANGERS

Wrapped in block printed fabrics, they're much more attractive than those wire freebies from the dry cleaner. **KC Wrapped Hangers**, \$42 for 10; kerrycassill.com



LAUNDRY BASKET

This 23" x 18" x 18" basket provides a slightly spot to stash your stuff. **Wicker French Laundry Basket**, \$60; basketlady.com



WIN THESE!
See page 6 for details.

WASHER/DRYER

Take on tough stains with the help of a powerful deep-steam feature. **Samsung High-Efficiency Front-Load Washer and Dryer in Merlot**, \$1,099 each; lowes.com



STAIN REMOVER

All-natural citric acid breaks down dirt, while geranium and jasmine essential oils make for a subtle, not chemical-y, scent. **Stain Remover**, \$10/16 ounces; caldrea.com



GLASS CANISTER

Even inexpensive powdered detergent looks luxe in this shapely, multipurpose 2-gallon jar. **Heritage Hill Storage Jar**, \$17; worldmarket.com

PAINT

This watery blue shade will keep your space looking fresh. **Open Air by Sherwin-Williams**, sherwin-williams.com for stores.

DRYER BALLS

Forgo sticky dryer sheets in favor of these ingenious felted spheres, which keep clothes soft and static-free and last for up to six years. **Wool Dryer Balls**, \$36 for six; food52.com



CLOTHESPINS

These happy-hued helpers will come in handy in more ways than you can imagine. **Wood Craft Clothespins in pink**, \$9 for 40; amazon.com

IRONING BOARD COVER

You won't be pressed for style with this padded, floral find. **Provence Rose Ironing Board Cover**, \$32; cathkidston.com



The Ultimate Potting Shed

This Birmingham workspace is pretty *and* practical. Here's how to plot a similar look.

HOW SMART IS THIS?

Vintage shutters add instant architectural oomph to a plain room. (See page 98 for sources.)



WRITTEN BY CAROLINE COLLINS MCKENZIE.

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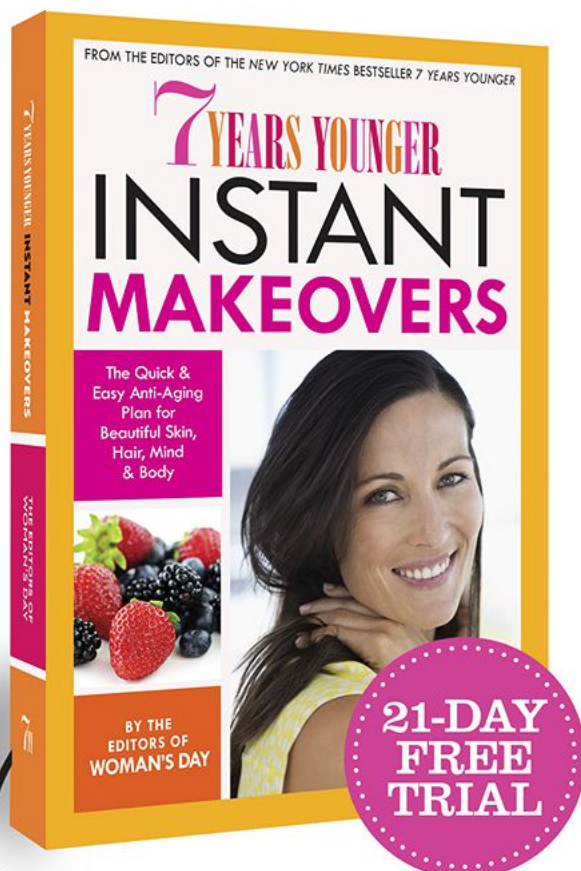
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PERK UP YOUR POTTING SHED

Three easy ways to cultivate a stylish workroom



① **INCORPORATE SALVAGED FINDS** Plastic storage bins just don't have the same, every-piece-tells-a-story charm. This rough-hewn item (a cheese locker in a past life!) has 28 compact drawers, making it an ideal spot for stashing twine, seeds, and other gardening essentials.



② OPT FOR TERRA-COTTA

These classic pots are more than an affordable gardening standby. When stored on an antique bottle drying rack, they add earthy style to the room.



③ HANG THEMATIC ARTWORK

Photocopied vintage seed packets—enlarged to fit standard 8" x 10" barnwood frames—add a wilt-proof pop of color.

HAVING A MOMENT: SEED PACKETS

We're spotting seed packet motifs everywhere! Here are some of our favorite finds. (Green thumb not required.)



Soft and light, it's the perfect weight for spring days. **Printed Scarf**, \$30; boden.com



Send a greeting to a friend, or frame them all for an instant gallery wall. **Postcard 12 Pack**, \$12; ideachic.etsy.com



Made of a durable indoor/outdoor fabric. **Pillow**, \$30; plowhearth.com



Perfect for toting produce home from the farmers' market. **Storage Cube**, \$15.50; dottydesignsuk.etsy.com

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Ask a Country Vet

Animal expert **DR. TRICIA EARLEY** shares her best advice for raising rabbits, caring for cocker spaniels, and making sure chickens and ducks play nice.



Q My 5-year-old daughter wants a rabbit, but I've heard they're not the best pets for young children. Is this true?

-Y.W., CHANDLER, AZ

A Speaking as both a veterinarian and bunny owner, rabbits are not the best choice for a young child. They can be difficult to handle (and easy to injure) due to their natural objection to cuddling, which children, of course, are prone to do. They're also high-maintenance pets, as they require consistent social interaction in the form of gentle petting, frequent cleaning of their living quarters, and regular veterinary care and dental checkups. Bottom line? Rabbits can be wonderful pets but are best suited for older children who are more capable of taking on the responsibility.



Q My grown son is terribly allergic to cats. When he visits, we put our cat in the basement, and she howls relentlessly. What can I do?

-D.L., SUDBURY, MA

A When you have a pet in the home, allergens linger everywhere and can even suspend in the air for periods of time, so putting your cat in the basement will do little to prevent your son from being exposed (it's certainly not worth the howling!). Instead, try thoroughly cleaning your home from top to bottom, including washing all bedding (human and feline) and using a vacuum equipped with a HEPA filter just prior to your loved one's arrival. If he visits frequently, I'd also consider replacing any carpet with wood or tile flooring. My husband is allergic to cats but married a cat-loving veterinarian. With the help of frequent cleaning, hardwood floors, and antihistamines, he happily coexists with our three fur balls, Harry, Ron, and Hermione.



Help reduce hairballs, naturally.

Our grain-free Blue Wilderness® Indoor Hairball Control is made with more of the chicken cats love and includes a unique blend of natural fibers to help reduce hairballs!



Q My cocker spaniel, Milly, has been suffering from frequent ear infections. What can I do to help her? -M.H., WILMINGTON, NC

A Canine ear infections are often caused by allergies or parasites, such as mites. But with cocker spaniels, a hereditary condition resulting in excess production of earwax often is to blame. Ask your veterinarian to recommend an appropriate cleanser that you can use on her ears regularly at home. Proper veterinary care and home maintenance will help Milly flaunt her floppy ears free of pain.



Q Can you keep chickens and ducks together? Everyone seems to have a different opinion! -A.C., JOHNSON CITY, TN

A With a few accommodations, absolutely! Provide your ducks with a shallow water source, such as a child's wading pool filled with a few inches of water. Without a pool of their own, they'll use the chickens' drinking water as a restroom, which certainly isn't very neighborly. Chickens and ducks also have different requirements in their feed, so you'll want to make sure everyone gets a diet specific to their needs. Last, make sure they have plenty of room in their shared space, otherwise the feathers may fly!



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brain cancer

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CountryLiving

April 2015



Download the
pattern at
[countryliving.com/
cross-stitch](http://countryliving.com/cross-stitch).

x x x x x x x

(Our Copy Chief
Katie Bowlby stitched
the one you see here.)

STYLE THAT LASTS

FARMHOUSE FRESH

QUILTS, CHINTZ, and CHECKS?

Check, check, *check!* This Texas retreat proves that old-fashioned favorites are undeniably new again.

WRITTEN BY ELIZABETH JENKINS

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROGER DAVIES

STYLING BY BECKI GRIFFIN





**MEET
SOLDIER BOY!**
A 2-year-old
Shetland pony





KITCHEN ➔

The previous owners had restored the 105-year-old home, so the kitchen didn't need a total gut job. What it *did* need were some simple but substantial cosmetic upgrades—starting with paint. When the McCarthys moved in, the walls were beige and the cabinets, which vary in height, were white. “Painting everything black seemed like a good way to make the cabinets blend in with the wall,” says Bailey. Next, she swapped out the granite countertops for butcher-block ones. “We wanted the feeling of an old farmhouse that would age nicely with us,” she says. “Butcher block is practical, casual, and the opposite of trendy.” The couple finished off their mini-makeover by bringing in a few country kitchen staples: a farm table that doubles as an island; a brass light fixture that will develop patina over time; black-and-white floral curtains; and open shelves to display her collection of antique pewter and a favorite needlepoint (“Kissin Wears Out; Cookin Don’t”).

You'd never guess Bailey McCarthy had an urban upbringing by the look of her **BELLVILLE, TEXAS**, country home. Filled to the brim with buffalo checks, antique quilts, and fair memorabilia, the century-old **VICTORIAN FARMHOUSE** is an homage to iconic country decor. “I’ve lived in a lot of cities—D.C., Austin, Chicago, and now Houston—but I’ve always been more of a country mouse,” she says. The interior designer, owner of Biscuit (a bedding line and housewares boutique in Houston) and author of the popular blog *Peppermint Bliss*, attributes her soft spot for **PASTORAL LIFE** to childhood summers spent at her grandfather’s ranch in Brookshire, Texas. She wanted her own children to have a similar experience, so when she and husband Pete happened upon a charming farmhouse on 85 acres, they snatched it up. Here’s how she embraced her **DOWNHOME ROOTS** to give this farmhouse a fresh—and timeless—look.



CHARACTER BUILDING

This brass fixture gives the kitchen old-fashioned charm befitting of its 100-year-old history.

Pitch Black
Farrow & Ball

Nice view of a windmill!





PERFECTLY IMPERFECT
The warped windows in the dining room were salvaged from an old train depot. Bailey treasures the character they add.



BUFFALO CHECK

In the 1850s, Pennsylvania's Woolrich Woolen Mills, the oldest continuously operating woolen mill in the U.S., introduced a new shirt that featured what would become its signature pattern: the buffalo check.

(Rumor has it that the Woolrich designer who created the shirt owned a herd of buffalo, hence the name.) Though red and black is the original color combination, the term "buffalo check" now applies to any fabric with oversize squares, whether used in clothing or home decor.



CHINTZ

Originally, "chint" referred to a glazed cotton fabric that was imported from India and featured flowers printed on a light-colored background. Chintz (the plural) now refers to a style of floral pattern found on upholstery, bedding, wallpaper, and pottery. American interior designer Elsie de Wolfe popularized the fabric in the early 1900s, touting its affordability, practicality, and decorative charm. Though once reserved for nurseries, boudoirs, and maids' rooms, the feminine patterns are now used in any setting.

↑ DINING ROOM

Inspired by the lush landscape just outside the enormous windows, Bailey filled the room with rustic wood elements and pops of green. The previous owners left behind the giant antler chandelier, which suited Bailey just fine. From there, she selected an antique round table that she had stripped down to the raw wood for a more worn and weathered look.

Beech wishbone chairs, which Bailey had lacquered in an apple green shade, make for a lively juxtaposition with the table. They also pop against the large antique hutch that stores her collection of copper Moscow mule mugs and green and white china. A pale pink Oriental rug with subtle hints of sky blue and chartreuse rounds out the mix.

↓ FAMILY ROOM

Bailey designed this space to be roomy enough to host a crowd but cozy enough for family game nights around the fire. "I wanted a few big pieces of indestructible furniture that people could pile on, plus some modern elements so it didn't feel too 'themey,'" says Bailey. Case in point:

Bailey paired the room's showstopping farmhouse icons—a buffalo check-covered sofa and wildflower chintz armchair—with a streamlined steel-framed coffee table and graphic longhorn watercolor painting (by Houston artist Mary H. Case) to keep the mix from going too traditional.

LIFE HAPPENS HERE
When weekend guests ask, "What can I bring?" Bailey suggests a beloved paperback book with an inscription to add to their library.



**Alligator
Alley**
*Benjamin
Moore*





HOW SMART IS THIS?

This sconce provides enough light for Bailey's late-night reading habit without disturbing her husband.



↑ MASTER BEDROOM

Bailey designed the room, which was originally the house's parlor, around her company's Wimberley pattern (named after the small Texas town known for its beautiful wildflowers). She upholstered the white-painted bed in a graphic blue-and-white-check fabric to complement the whimsical sheets. Wallpaper with a wood grain pattern, a fresh way to achieve a similar effect as unpainted, wood-paneled walls, creates a warm backdrop for the crisp bed. Gauzy eyelet curtains finish the space with a dose of pretty. "They add a country touch without going full-on 'granny,'" says Bailey.

← GUEST BEDROOM

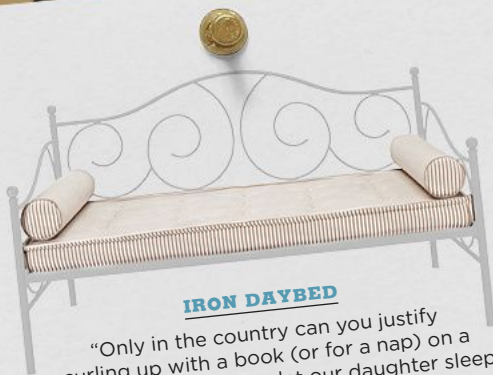
Talk about a cozy retreat. To play up the guest room's snug dimensions, Bailey covered the walls and trim with rich green paint. A four-poster spindle bed, outfitted with a striped wool blanket and wood grain patterned bedding (Paul in Taupe), also from Biscuit, creates a comfy room-within-a-room feel, while botanical curtains add softness and privacy. To give the room a collected-over-time look, Bailey brought in a pair of vintage carved wooden lamps and three sepia-toned landscape photographs with a decidedly Western style.

↓ GRACE'S ROOM

Bailey embraced her love of pink and green full tilt by painting the walls a soft shade of the former and choosing a traditional country bed frame in a leafy shade of the latter. An antique quilt looks surprisingly modern when paired with graphic heart-print bedding (from Biscuit, and appropriately named "Grace"). Vintage finds, like the Murano glass tulip sconces and the fair banners hanging above the bed (a Round Top find, and Bailey's first purchase for the house) infuse the space with personality.

Middleton
Pink
Farrow & Ball





IRON DAYBED

"Only in the country can you justify curling up with a book (or for a nap) on a lazy afternoon. We also let our daughter sleep on the one in our room from time to time."

Victoria Day Bed, \$126; wayfair.com



VINTAGE PEWTER

"I started collecting it while I was in college. The more unusual the shape, the better."

Pewter Tea Pot, \$24; kultureetsy.com



COLORFUL BANNERS

"Because every farmhouse ought to put some country wisdom on display."

Virtue Banners, \$36; scoutandlilly.com



ROCKING CHAIRS

"Sitting out and watching the sun set over the pond in the evening is our favorite family pastime."

Rocking Chair, \$150; wayfair.com

WHAT MAKES MY HOME COUNTRY

"Our house is comfortable and inviting, without being fancy or fussy. This is where we come to unwind, reconnect, and build memories as a family."

—Bailey McCarthy

Cat's Meow
1332

PINK ACCENTS

"Driving up to our Dutch door painted this cheerful shade puts an even bigger smile on my face every time."

Cat's Meow by Benjamin Moore; benjaminmoore.com for stores



DECORATIVE ANTLERS

"Adding colorful tiny lampshades to our dining room chandelier is next up on my to-do list."

Antler Chandelier, \$200; bassproshop.com

ANTIQUE QUILTS

"As someone who's dabbled a bit in sewing, I truly appreciate the artistry and craftsmanship."


Similar vintage quilts, textilesandoldthings.etsy.com



WILDFLOWER PRINTS

"An easy way to bring the unique beauty of the Texas landscape indoors."

Wimberly Euro Sham, \$75; biscuit-home.com

A photograph of a garden featuring a white arched trellis structure. The trellis is heavily laden with climbing roses, primarily in shades of pink and light red, with some white roses visible at the base. The roses are in full bloom, creating a dense wall of flowers. The trellis is set against a backdrop of lush green foliage, including manicured hedges and trees. A gravel path leads through the garden, and a large, textured brown planter is visible on the left side. The overall scene is a classic country garden setting.

Roses are just one
essential of a
country garden.

— STYLE THAT LASTS —

Homegrown Charm



In her new book, *Garden Inspirations*, esteemed designer Charlotte Moss invites readers into her spectacular East Hampton, New York, garden and shares the wisdom she's cultivated over 25 years. Here, Charlotte reveals what

Every Country Garden Needs...

PHOTOGRAPHS AND TEXT BY CHARLOTTE MOSS



PHOTOGRAPH (TOP), PIETER ESTERSOHN.

GARDENS HAVE LONG PROVIDED HUMANITY WITH PLEASURE

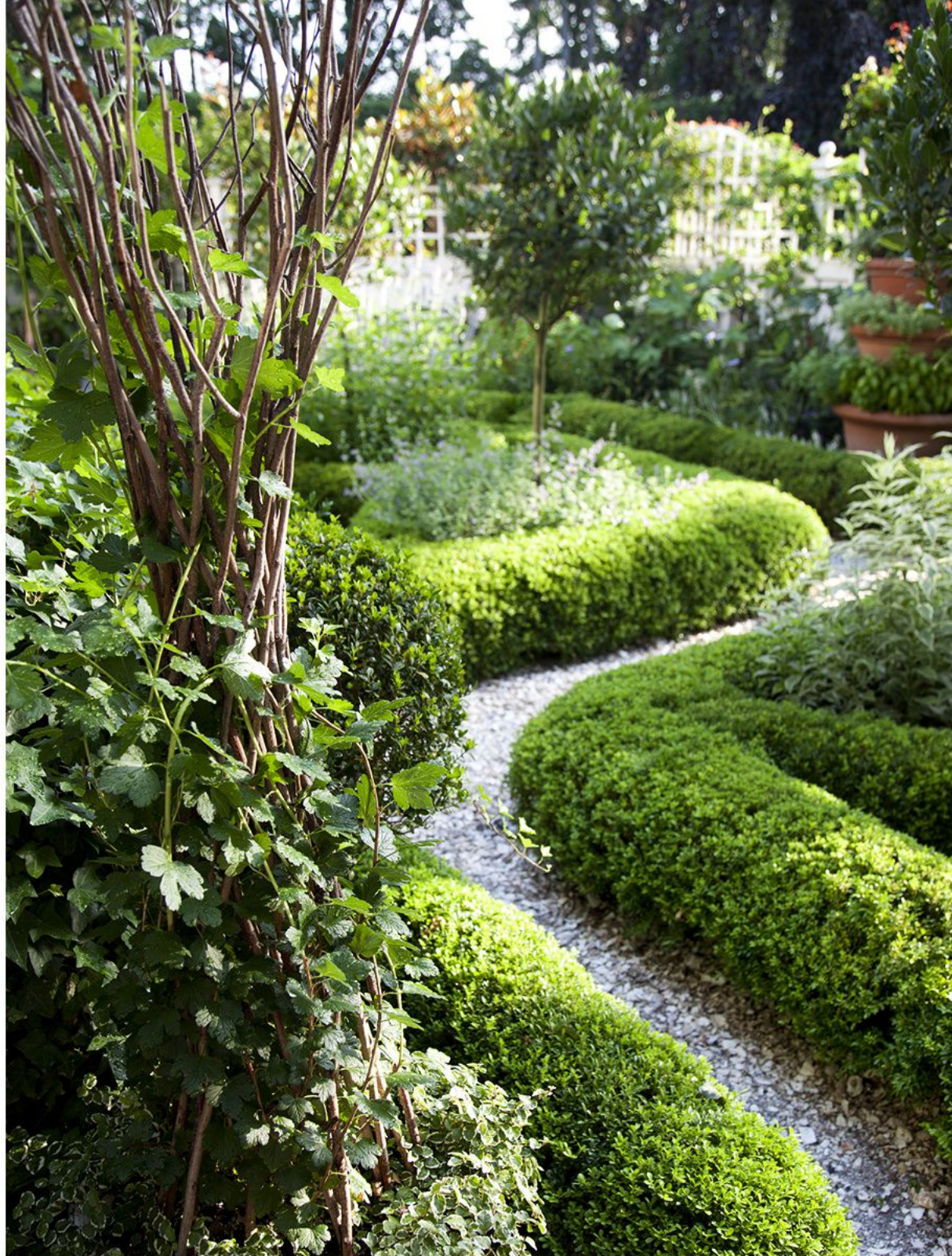
and delight, but the role of the garden today, in our technology-driven lifestyles, may be even more important, and “the principles” of old gardens, as Edith Wharton called them—“to escape, to enjoy, to behold our own patch of beauty and pleasure”—can be applied to your own backyard, rooftop, or window box. You can be at it for a few minutes or a few hours—it never really matters, because the joy is in the doing. While gardens are truly personal, intimate endeavors, here are some of my essentials for carving out a perfect patch.



◀ Charlotte Moss's ninth book, *Garden Inspirations*, will be available on April 28 (\$50; rizzolibookstore.com).

◀ *An Inviting Entry*

Just as an empty chair welcomes a visitor with its open arms so, too, can the approach to a house. At my home, Boxwood Terrace, the hornbeam hedges [shown at left] line one side of the drive, while a double border acts as another screen and backdrop to the white fence along the road. There is a feeling of anticipation mixed with invitation. The same principle of invitation can be translated from one discipline to another. Gardening, architecture, landscape design, and interior design: The atmosphere of the garden is the single most important element—that ephemeral quality gardeners seek where all the senses are awakened and the essence of the place is etched in our memories.



A Winding, Meandering Path ▲

Beloved gardener Robert Dash said it best: "All good garden paths should lead to loitering with fine intent, and if they don't, then something is wrong indeed. Loitering is horticulturally permissible behavior." Boxwood—a shrub that I have such distinct memories of growing up in Virginia visiting the James River plantations, Colonial Williamsburg, and everywhere you went in Richmond—was one of my first and more important requirements for our gardens and property. While there are no hedges sculpted as birds in my garden, there are a number of boxwood hedges rounded, squared off, and snaked through other borders [shown above].



◀ Roses, Roses, and More Roses

Once a year we have this joy, the joy that roses bring... persuading us, imploring us, to enjoy the moment!

Anyone who grows roses, has grown roses, or reads or dreams about growing roses knows one thing: Roses are not without their challenges. However, the benefits, the beauty, and the joy far exceed any and all heartache. In the last 20 years, I have estimated replacing all of my roses in my beds at least twice. We are close to the ocean and experience harsh New York winters, but forget all of that. We *must* have roses.



"Once a year we have this joy, the joy that roses bring...persuading us, imploring us, to enjoy the moment!"

Wildflowers ▶

Wildflowers introduced me to a world with no rules. They taught me that what there is, there is and to make the most of it. I remember picking blackberries along the unpaved road to my grandmother's river cottage and grabbing honeysuckle, Queen Anne's lace [right], and chicory. I remember the lady slipper orchids that we found in the woods. I would bring them home to repot them as though I had discovered a flower no one else knew about. It was there in the woods that I learned to appreciate beauty in its natural habitat, and that the simple things can be the most sublime.



◀ Herbs and Edibles

Our kitchen garden—what the French call the "potager"—is oozing with basil, marjoram, sorrel, oregano, and rosemary in terra-cotta towers. Fig trees are growing like weeds, and we look forward to the next crop of fruit [including strawberries, left], while the apple espalier is showing some promise of a pie or tart or two. Of course I love cooking with the herbs I grow, but many also make great companions in my floral arrangements, like scented geranium, tomato leaves, mint, parsley, and lemon verbena.





"I don't know how many vases I own, but I find that there is always some shape, some size, some color that has escaped me. Antique, new, thrift shop—the origin is unimportant."



A Collection of Pretty Containers ▲

Some people play golf; I prefer flower arranging. (Yes, I did try golf years ago—I didn't like the outfits.) My husband, the golfer, and I joke that my garden room—filled with silver vessels, woven baskets, and blue-and-white porcelain containers—is my ninth green. I am not a vase snob, by which I mean, if I like it, I buy it. Whether from a thrift shop or an antiques shop, the provenance is irrelevant when it comes to collecting vases. Things find you along your path or you find them—there was an emotional reaction that caused the two of you to go home together. As a designer and a collector...nothing beats the thrill of the hunt.

A Quiet Spot To Sit ►

If you had to describe my garden, it's not so much about parterres and sweeping vistas as it is about intimate spaces, small rooms—gardens within gardens. We invited Gilles Guillot, the head gardener of the Prieuré Notre-Dame d'Orsan in Maisonnais, France, to re-create the same rondel-like windows into our hedging as he did at Orsan, and to weave similar willow benches, a gloriette, and frames for the espalier. Like rooms in a house, exterior rooms also want furnishings. Drawing your eye to a quiet corner, at the end of an allée, or under a tree, garden seating begs you to stay awhile, to sit and enjoy the view and the fruits of your labor.





WRITTEN BY ELIZABETH JENKINS
PHOTOGRAPHS BY MAX KIM-BEE
STYLING BY SARAH CAVE

STYLE THAT LASTS

Neutral Territory

Think a natural palette is dull or boring? Think again! Thanks to **earthy textures, woven accents**, extensive **collections** (hello, white pottery!), and subtle pops of **blue and green**, this rural Connecticut home is full of life.

HOW SMART IS THIS?

To create the look of planked walls without the hassle or expense, homeowner Ingrid Leess drew horizontal lines with pencil in the stairwell.





HOW SMART IS THIS?

The black-and-white-striped Roman shades are actually 30" x 60" Ikea runners hung from nails and strung up with upholstery twine.

Super White
Benjamin Moore

INGRID LEESS WEARS A LOT OF HATS: She does interior design work; produces and styles magazine photo shoots; designs her own lampshades; hunts down bargain finds for clients; scours flea markets and estate sales for antiques to refurbish and sell; and makes custom artwork. If asked to define what she does, however, Ingrid would say she's more of a collector than anything else. "I like to pick things whenever I see them and mix them in over time," she says. The lived-in, layered style of her own New Canaan, Connecticut, farmhouse, which she describes as her "decorating lab," reflects this approach. Though the same key pieces of furniture have anchored the space for decades, the rest of her decor, from accessories to artwork, is in constant flux. "Things move a lot in this house," says Ingrid. "I'll throw paint on a fancy piece of furniture or sand off an antique walnut finish. I've replaced the slipcovers on the sofa four or five times, and I change out the pillows seasonally." ►

"In my house, nothing is too precious or fine to be modified, stripped, repainted, or just swapped out for a bit. I'm always eager to shake things up."





PERFECTLY IMPERFECT

Ingrid could not remove the living room's bulky radiator, so she just built the shelves around it.

explains. In her living room, for example, wool blankets and fluffy flokati throws in creamy off-white shades add softness, while rustic wood accents—a round mirror, the three-legged stool—and a stone fireplace ground the space with earthy elements. Even many of her accessories are white, such as her vast collection of pottery on display in the living room. “As a ceramics major in college, I started collecting white pottery,” she says. “The wall with the collection is more dynamic than it might seem, thanks to the pieces’ different shapes, shades, and eras.”

COUNTRY CLASSIC



BOARD-AND-BATTEN PANELING

This charming wall treatment (left) is rooted in 19th-century barn design, in which vertical “boards” were laid out side by side and “battens” were placed above the seams to seal the gaps and provide insulation.

Ingrid's other go-to trick for warming up all that white: bringing in woven materials, from wicker seating in the living room to grasscloth wallpaper in the entry. The textured wallcovering serves as an inviting, albeit neutral, backdrop for the marble-topped pine console table and whatever installation of artwork, potted plants, books, and other accessories Ingrid has on display. “You can always tell what I’m loving—brass, for now—by what’s on that table,” says Ingrid. Below, a barrel corral shoes and a basket keeps extra throw blankets at the ready. ➤



What makes it possible for Ingrid to switch around her stuff on a whim is the neutral, decidedly country base she and husband Mark Larmee created when they bought the farmhouse nearly 30 years ago. Almost every wall in the house, including those covered with barn-inspired board-and-batten paneling, is painted the same shade of white, and most of the furniture is covered in white or neutral linen. “I start off with white to make each room as light as possible, then I bring in textures to add dimension,” Ingrid



Ingrid's penchant for a white-plus-woven look does not mean she eschews color altogether. In fact, the designer's home is filled with subtle pops of green and blue, from the giant fiddle-leaf fig tree that thrives in her den to the indigo print breakfast nook pillows in her kitchen, which the couple remodeled in 2010. As part of the overhaul, she took down a wall that divided it from the adjacent dining room, added windows, and installed lots of reclaimed wood shelves. By the sink, she keeps dishware, bread boards, and potted herbs in view and within reach; on each side of her breakfast nook, she displays her collection of blue and green demijohn bottles.

Patterned textiles (many of them vintage) also add dimension to the light, bright spaces, from the den's collection of indigo batik ►

COUNTRY CLASSIC



DEMIJOHN BOTTLE

These glass vessels (right), also referred to as "carboys," are characterized by their round shapes and short, narrow necks. Used for storing liquids and fermenting spirits, they were originally covered in wicker, which protected the glass. The origin of the word "demijohn" is unclear: It may derive from "Damghan," a Persian town known for glassmaking, or from "Dame Jeanne," as such bottles are referred to in France.



HOW SMART IS THIS?

Ingrid gave this black iron chandelier—a flea market find—modern punch with alternating black-and-white-striped shades that she made.



**HOW SMART
IS THIS?**

This pretty canopy, made of windowpane plaid fabric panels hung from a frame of simple crown molding, fills the master bedroom with soft texture.



throw pillows to the master bedroom's mélange of blue-and-white prints. Although she mixed multiple patterns—windowpane plaid, vertical and horizontal stripes—the effect is still subdued, thanks to the consistent palette. “I like to stick to either one color or one motif,” says Ingrid. “I think it’s safe to say there’s a stripe of some sort in every room.”

Amid all her swapping out of this and that, one thing

remains constant: Ingrid’s steadfast approach to layering—be it stripe on stripe or small painting propped up against large line drawing or everyday white pottery that takes on serious decorative heft when grouped together. “Working with neutrals gives me license to be more creative and really pile it on,” she says. “Country is one look where more is definitely more.”



VINTAGE COLLECTIONS

"When I find something I love, I tend to go overboard. Displaying those finds on shelves turns my walls into sculpture."

Vintage Demijohn Bottles, from \$65; jaysonhome.com



SMALL-SCALE ARTWORK

"Collecting little paintings and drawings gives me freedom to move things around."

For similar prints, visit art.com



POPS OF BLACK

"A little bit of this dark shade is all it takes to anchor an airy room."

Black Metal Lanterns, from \$15; pier1.com

what makes my home COUNTRY

"This traditional house has more of a rustic farmhouse feel, thanks to an unconventional mix of materials and textures inspired by the outdoors."

— Ingrid Leess



WOVEN SEATING

"Furniture made of seagrass, wicker, or rattan complements any look and lasts a lifetime."

Santino Chair with Cushion, \$399; grandinroad.com



FIDDLE-LEAF FIG PLANTS

"From living trees to silk evergreen branches, lush leaves fill my home all year long."

Large Fig Branch, \$195; ndi.com (Pricey, but it'll never wilt!)



BLUE GLASS TILE

"Colors from nature have a calming effect on me."

Subway Tile, \$20/square foot; modwalls.com



WOODEN ACCENTS

"Every space needs something with a handmade or homemade feel."

Teak Round Cutting Board, \$50; crateandbarrel.com



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FAMILY FUN



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MONUMENTAL PARKS



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BIGGER

— THAN THE PANORAMIC VISTAS —
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COUNTRY LIVING

Blue Ribbon Kitchen

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KITCHEN OF THE MONTH

This Tennessee cook space shows that farmhouse staples, from pine shelves to grain sack linens, never go out of style.

Although used as a prep island, this piece is actually an early-19th-century French baker's table.

STYLING BY PAGE MULLINS.





1

4

5

2

3

6

7



The aged bronze finish and classic shape make this bridge faucet a mainstay in farmhouse kitchens.



EIGHT WAYS TO COOK UP CLASSIC CHARM

Here's how homeowner Dianne Palmer infused her Franklin, Tennessee, kitchen with timeless country appeal.

1

WHITEWASHED WOOD

A custom mix of icy gray-white chalk paint gives the pine shiplap siding and cedar ceiling beams instant age.

2

ANTIQUE CABINETRY

An English pine hutch—with drawer storage below and a cupboard above—stands in for traditional cabinetry. Separating the pieces created more workspace in between.

3

VINTAGE SIGN

The red-and-white print adds a graphic touch to this old-fashioned space. (For similar signs, try thirdshift.etsy.com.)

4

COPPER HOOD

Dianne added a copper-like finish on this stainless steel vent hood and exposed galvanized pipe to mimic the look of old French country kitchens. Hood, from \$1,180; fivestarrange.com

5

RECLAIMED SHELVES

Made of Belgian pine and supported by brackets carved from single pieces of wood, the shelves once hung as a 6-foot-wide single unit in Dianne's barn. Her son-in-law, builder Darryl McCreary, carefully cut them to wrap the corner.

6

CONCRETE COUNTERTOPS

At 4 inches thick, this custom-colored concrete was inspired by antique soapstone.

7

SKIRTED STORAGE

The striped panels are made from an old linen tablecloth. (For similar textiles, try williams-sonoma.com.)

8

CANNING STATION

Dianne keeps her grandmother's collection of jars, covered with blue fabric and tied with twine, on shelves near her sink.



10 ESSENTIALS FOR A COUNTRY KITCHEN

Homeowner and R&B Gospel singer Dianne Palmer stocks her space with these stylish, trend-proof finds.

WOODEN CUTTING BOARDS

"I use mine to prep *and* serve food, so the bigger they are, the better!" Valley Cutting Boards, from \$62; jaysonhome.com



OPEN SHELVES

"Because hiding everything away behind closed doors just isn't country." Bracket Shelf, \$21; wayfair.com



SLIPCOVERED SEATING

"Coming home wouldn't be the same without a soft spot to land." Slipcovered Stool, \$249; restorationhardware.com



FRESH FLOWERS

"Pale green viburnum [available at most grocery stores] makes my kitchen feel like spring all year long."



WOVEN BASKETS

"I use them to store everything from onions and potatoes to extra dish towels." Hyacinth Basket, from \$30; pier1.com



BARN LIGHTING

"The perfect marriage of function and style." Porcelain Pendant, \$135; bluemoonlights.etsy.com



COPPER LADLE

"I love the warm color and irregular finish. Bonus: It's more versatile than you'd think." Hammered Copper Ladle, \$22; alchemade.com



BLUE-STRIPED DISH TOWELS

"The grain sack-inspired stripe reminds me of France." Turkish Towel, \$20 each; shopsaltandsundry.com



TEA TIN

"Sugar looks sweeter in a pretty little tea tin." Tea Tin, \$10; stashtea.com



STONEWARE CROCK

"Perfect for storing all of my wooden spoons." Ohio Stoneware Crock, \$24; acehardware.com



History. Culture. Gardens.



Wilmington and the Brandywine Valley

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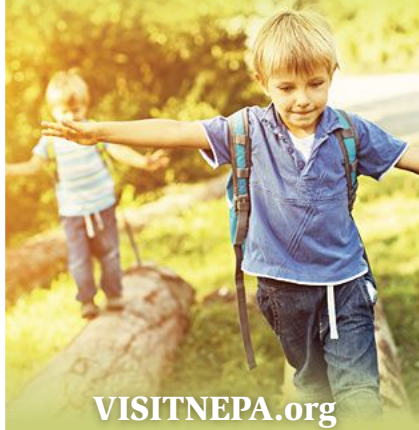
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*Spinach-and-Barley
Salad with Grilled Pork*
RECIPE P. 90

Steak-and-Potato Salad

MAKES 4 servings / WORKING TIME
25 minutes / **TOTAL TIME** 30 minutes

- 1 pound small new potatoes, halved**
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
Champagne Vinaigrette
- 2 teaspoons canola oil**
- 1 (1 1/4- to 1 1/2-inch-thick) New York strip steak (about 1 1/4 pounds)**
- 4 cups arugula**
- 2 cups torn watercress**
- 2 scallions, sliced**
- 1/4 cup torn fresh dill**
- 3 ounces goat cheese, crumbled (about 3/4 cup)**

- 1.** Place potatoes in a medium saucepan and cover with cold salted water by 2 inches. Cover and bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer until tender, 8 to 10 minutes. Drain and toss with 1/3 cup vinaigrette in a bowl. Let sit, stirring occasionally, until the dressing is absorbed.
- 2.** Meanwhile, heat oil in a heavy bottomed skillet over medium-high heat. Season steak with 1 teaspoon salt and 1/2 teaspoon pepper. Cook, partially covered, until the internal temperature registers 130°F (medium-rare), 5 to 7 minutes per side, or to desired degree of doneness. Remove to a plate and allow to rest 5 minutes before slicing.
- 3.** Add arugula, watercress, scallions, dill, and remaining vinaigrette to potatoes; gently toss to combine. Season with salt and pepper.
- 4.** Serve with steak and sprinkle with goat cheese.

CHAMPAGNE VINAIGRETTE: Whisk together 1/4 cup **olive oil**, 2 tablespoons **Champagne vinegar**, 1 1/2 teaspoons whole-grain **Dijon mustard**, 1 minced small **garlic clove**, and 3/4 teaspoon **sugar**. Season with **salt** and **freshly ground black pepper**.

PER SERVING: protein: 36 g; fat: 30 g; carbohydrate: 24 g; fiber: 3 g; sodium: 813 mg; cholesterol: 116 mg; calories: 504.

Green Machine Power Salad

MAKES 4 servings / WORKING TIME
30 minutes / **TOTAL TIME** 30 minutes

- 2 cups sugar snap peas**
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper



Steak-and-Potato Salad

- 4 cups Mache or baby arugula**
- 4 hard-boiled eggs, halved**
- 2 cups pea shoots**
- 1 cup cooked edamame**
- 1 avocado, quartered**
- 1 cup sliced seedless baby cucumber**
- 1 small red bell pepper, sliced**
- 1/3 cup roasted salted pepitas**
Green Goddess Dressing

- 1.** Cook snap peas in boiling salted water in a medium saucepan over high heat until crisp-tender, 1 to 2 minutes. Drain and run under cold water until cool. Slice in half.
- 2.** Arrange Mache, eggs, pea shoots, edamame, avocado, cucumber, bell

pepper, pepitas, and snap peas on a serving platter. Season with black pepper.

3. Serve with Green Goddess Dressing.

GREEN GODDESS DRESSING: Process 2/3 cup plain **Greek yogurt**, 1/3 cup firmly packed fresh **flat-leaf parsley leaves**, 1 chopped **scallion**, 1 1/2 tablespoons fresh **dill**, 1 1/2 tablespoons firmly packed fresh **tarragon**, 1 1/2 tablespoons **olive oil**, 1 tablespoon each **lemon zest** and **lemon juice**, and 1 small **garlic clove** in a food processor or blender until smooth, about 30 seconds. Season with **salt** and **freshly ground black pepper**.

PER SERVING: protein: 20 g; fat: 23 g; carbohydrate: 19 g; fiber: 9 g; sodium: 85 mg; cholesterol: 187 mg; calories: 344.

Green Machine
Power Salad





*Crunchy Carrot,
Pea, and
Chicken Salad*

Crunchy Carrot, Pea, and Chicken Salad

MAKES 4 servings / WORKING TIME
30 minutes / TOTAL TIME 30 minutes

- 1/3 loaf ciabatta, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 pound baby rainbow carrots, halved lengthwise
- 6 cups torn Little Gem or romaine lettuce
- 2 cups shredded rotisserie chicken
- 1 cup cooked fresh or frozen peas

- 1 small fennel bulb, halved, cored, and thinly sliced

Mustard-Chive Vinaigrette

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Toss together bread, oil, and garlic on a baking sheet. Season with salt and pepper. Bake, stirring once, until golden brown and crisp, 10 to 12 minutes.
2. Cook carrots in boiling salted water in a medium saucepan over high heat until crisp-tender, 2 to 3 minutes. Drain and run under cold water until cool.
3. Gently toss together lettuce, shredded chicken, peas, fennel, croutons, carrots, and vinaigrette in a bowl. Season with salt and pepper.

MUSTARD-CHIVE VINAIGRETTE:

Whisk together 1/4 cup olive oil, 2 tablespoons white balsamic vinegar, 1 1/2 tablespoons chopped fresh chives, 1/2 minced small shallot, 1 1/2 teaspoons Dijon mustard, and 1 teaspoon sugar. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper.

PER SERVING: protein: 24 g; fat: 30 g; carbohydrate: 33 g; fiber: 7 g; sodium: 303 mg; cholesterol: 53 mg; calories: 490.

Spinach-and-Barley Salad with Grilled Pork

shown on page 87

MAKES 6 servings / WORKING TIME 25
minutes / TOTAL TIME 40 minutes

- 1 cup pearly barley
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 (1 1/4 pound) pork tenderloin
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 6 cups baby spinach
- 4 large radishes, thinly sliced
- 3 baby chioggia (striped) or yellow beets, peeled and thinly sliced
- 3 scallions, sliced
- 2 medium carrots, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup chopped toasted walnuts
- Smoky Paprika Vinaigrette

1. Cook barley in boiling salted water in a medium saucepan over medium-high heat until tender, 24 to 26 minutes. Drain and run under cold water until cool.

2. Preheat grill to medium-high. Rub pork with oil and season with 1 teaspoon each salt and pepper. Grill, covered, turning occasionally, until the internal temperature registers 145°F, 15 to 18 minutes. Remove to a plate and allow to rest 5 minutes before slicing.

3. Toss together spinach, radishes, beets, scallions, carrots, walnuts, barley, and vinaigrette in a bowl. Season with salt and pepper.

4. Serve with sliced pork.

SMOKY PAPRIKA VINAIGRETTE: Whisk together 1/2 cup olive oil, 1/4 cup red wine vinegar, 1 1/2 tablespoons honey, 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard, and 1 1/4 teaspoons smoked paprika. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper.

PER SERVING: protein: 24 g; fat: 30 g; carbohydrate: 39 g; fiber: 8 g; sodium: 534 mg; cholesterol: 50 mg; calories: 510.



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*Lemon-Coconut
Cake with
Mascarpone
Frosting
(SEE PAGE 96)*

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Rhubarb-Ginger
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(SEE PAGE 95)

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Mushroom-
and-Leek
Tart



Creamy Bibb-
and-Herb
Salad



Spring Vegetable,
Ham, and
Goat Cheese
Frittata





RHUBARB-GINGER BELLINI

MAKES 8 servings / WORKING TIME 10 minutes / TOTAL TIME 2 hours, 40 minutes

1½ cups chopped rhubarb

¾ cup granulated sugar

1 (1½-inch) piece fresh ginger, sliced

1 (750-ml) bottle prosecco, chilled

1. Combine rhubarb, sugar, ginger, and ¾ cup water in a medium saucepan. Boil over medium-high heat, stirring often, until sugar is dissolved and rhubarb begins to soften, 2 to 3 minutes. Remove from heat and let steep 30 minutes.

2. Discard ginger. Puree mixture in a blender until smooth; strain through a fine mesh sieve, and discard solids. Chill completely.

3. Divide syrup among 8 Champagne flutes and top with prosecco. Serve immediately.

MUSHROOM-AND-LEEK TART

MAKES 8 servings / WORKING TIME 25 minutes / TOTAL TIME 45 minutes

3 tablespoons unsalted butter, divided

1 pound mushrooms (such as cremini and button), thickly sliced

1 large leek, white and light green parts only, sliced into rings (½-inch thick)

2 garlic cloves, chopped

2 teaspoons chopped fresh thyme, plus more whole leaves for garnish
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

All-purpose flour, for work surface

½ (17.3-ounce) package puff pastry, thawed

2 tablespoons Dijon mustard

1 ounce Parmesan cheese, grated

1 large egg, beaten

1. Preheat oven to 400°F.

2. Melt 2 tablespoons butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add mushrooms and sauté until golden brown, 6 to 8 minutes. Remove mushrooms to a plate; reserve skillet. Add remaining tablespoon butter, leek, garlic, and thyme to reserved skillet and sauté until leek is wilted, 2 to 4 minutes. Stir in mushrooms and season with salt and pepper.

3. Lightly flour work surface. Unfold pastry and roll, sealing seams if necessary, into a 10-by-12-inch rectangle. Cut pastry into two 5-by-12-inch rectangles and place on 2 parchment-lined baking sheets. Lightly prick the dough with a fork, leaving a ¾-inch border all around. Spread the mustard on dough, inside the border. Sprinkle with Parmesan and top with mushroom mixture. Brush edges of pastry with egg.

4. Bake until edges are golden brown, 16 to 18 minutes. Garnish with thyme.

SPRING VEGETABLE, HAM, AND GOAT CHEESE FRITTATA

MAKES 8 servings / WORKING TIME 20 minutes / TOTAL TIME 35 minutes

8 large eggs

¾ cup heavy cream

3 ounces ham, chopped

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

2 tablespoons unsalted butter

½ pound asparagus, trimmed and cut into 2-inch pieces

6 radishes, thinly sliced

4 scallions, sliced

1 garlic clove, finely chopped

4 ounces goat cheese, crumbled

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Whisk together eggs, cream, ham, 1 teaspoon salt, and ½ teaspoon pepper in a bowl.

2. Melt butter in an 10-inch oven-proof nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add asparagus and sauté until crisp-tender, 2 to 4 minutes. Add radishes, scallions, and garlic and sauté until scallions are just wilted, 1 to 2 minutes.

3. Reduce heat to medium. Pour egg mixture over vegetables and cook until eggs begin to set around the edges, 3 to 4 minutes. Sprinkle with goat cheese. Bake until set, 15 to 17 minutes. Serve immediately.

CREAMY BIBB-AND-HERB SALAD

MAKES 8 servings / WORKING TIME 10 minutes / TOTAL TIME 10 minutes

¼ cup whole buttermilk

¼ cup mayonnaise

1 teaspoon finely grated lemon zest plus 1 tablespoon lemon juice

1 garlic clove, minced

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

¼ cup sliced fresh chives

2 heads Bibb lettuce, separated into leaves

¼ cup torn fresh chervil or flat-leaf parsley leaves

1. Whisk together buttermilk, mayonnaise, lemon zest and juice, and garlic in a bowl. Season with salt and pepper.

2. Toss together chives, lettuce, chervil, and buttermilk dressing. Season with pepper. Serve immediately.

TWISTED STICKY CARAMEL-PECAN ROLL

shown on page 96

MAKES 8 servings / WORKING TIME 30 minutes / TOTAL TIME 2 hours, 45 minutes

¼ cup (½ stick) unsalted butter, softened, plus more for the pan

½ cup packed plus 2 tablespoons dark brown sugar, divided

3 ounces cream cheese, softened

½ cup finely chopped toasted pecans

1½ teaspoons ground cinnamon

¼ teaspoon fine salt

1 pound prepared pizza dough, at room temperature

Quick Caramel Glaze

1. Generously butter bottom and sides of a 9-inch cast-iron skillet or cake pan. Sprinkle bottom of pan with 2 tablespoons sugar.

2. Stir together cream cheese and butter until smooth in a bowl. Stir together pecans, cinnamon, salt, and remaining ½ cup sugar in another bowl.

3. Roll and stretch dough into a 14-inch square (if the dough springs back, cover it with a dish towel and let stand 5 minutes before continuing to roll). Spread dough with cream cheese mixture and sprinkle sugar mixture on one half. Fold other half over sugar and press lightly to adhere. Cut dough lengthwise into 5 strips. Tightly twist each dough strip. Beginning in the center of prepared skillet, wrap strips in a spiral pattern, pinching ends together. Cover and let stand in a warm place, 45 minutes.

4. Preheat oven to 350°F. Bake until golden and cooked through, 30 to 32 minutes. Meanwhile, prepare Quick Caramel Glaze.

5. Transfer roll to a serving plate and drizzle with warm Quick Caramel Glaze. Serve warm.

QUICK CARAMEL GLAZE: Bring ¼ cup packed dark brown sugar, ¼ cup

Twisted
Sticky Caramel-
Pecan Roll



(1/2 stick) **unsalted butter**, and 3 tablespoons **cream** to a boil in a small saucepan over medium heat. Boil, stirring constantly, until sugar is dissolved, 2 to 4 minutes. Remove from heat, and stir in 1 teaspoon **pure vanilla extract** and 1/4 teaspoon **fine salt**.

LEMON-COCONUT CAKE WITH MASCARPONE FROSTING

shown on page 92

MAKES 12 servings / WORKING TIME 40 minutes / TOTAL TIME 1 hour, 50 minutes

- 1 1/3 cup unsalted butter, softened, plus more for the pans**
- 4 cups cake flour, plus more for the pans**
- 1 1/3 cups whole milk**

- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract**
- 4 teaspoons baking powder**
- 1 teaspoon fine salt**
- 2 2/3 cups granulated sugar**
- 7 large egg whites, at room temperature**
- Lemon-Coconut Filling**
- Creamy Mascarpone Frosting**
- Fondant daisies, for decorating**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 350°F. Butter and flour three 9-inch cake pans; line bottoms with parchment paper. Stir together milk and vanilla in a bowl. Sift together flour, baking powder, and salt in another bowl.
- 2.** Beat butter on medium speed with an electric mixer until light and fluffy,

2 to 3 minutes. Gradually beat in sugar until light and fluffy, 1 to 2 minutes. Reduce mixer speed to low, add flour mixture alternately with milk mixture, beginning and ending with flour mixture, beating just until blended after each addition.

3. Beat egg whites, in a clean dry bowl, at medium speed with an electric mixer until stiff peaks form, 2 to 3 minutes. Gently fold egg whites, in three additions, into batter. Transfer batter to prepared pans.

4. Bake until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean, 25 to 28 minutes. Cool in pans on wire racks 10 minutes. Invert onto wire racks; carefully peel off and discard parchment paper. Cool completely.

5. Place one cake layer on a cake stand or serving plate and spread top with half of the Lemon-Coconut Filling (leaving a 1/4-inch border all around). Top with a second cake layer and top with the remaining Lemon-Coconut Filling (leaving a 1/4-inch border all around); top with the remaining cake layer. Frost top and sides with Creamy Mascarpone Frosting. Decorate with fondant daisies.

LEMON-COCONUT FILLING: Stir together 1 packed cup **sweetened flaked coconut**, 2/3 cup store-bought **lemon curd** (such as Dickinson's), 1/4 cup **sour cream**, 1 tablespoon **lemon zest**. Cover and chill until ready to use.

CREAMY MASCARPONE FROSTING: Stir 1 (8-ounce) package softened **mascarpone cheese** in a bowl until smooth. Beat 1 1/2 cups **heavy cream**, 2 teaspoons **pure vanilla extract**, and 1/4 teaspoon **coconut extract** on low speed with an electric mixer until foamy, 1 to 2 minutes. Increase speed to medium-high, and gradually add 1/3 cup **granulated sugar**, beating just until stiff peaks form, 2 to 3 minutes. Gently fold whipped cream mixture into mascarpone cheese. Use immediately.





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2 tsp. baking powder
2 tsp. **McCormick Ground Cinnamon**
1/4 tsp. salt
1 1/2 cups firmly packed brown sugar
1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, melted
2 eggs
1 tbsp. **McCormick Pure Vanilla Extract**
1 cup coarsely chopped pecans
1 pkg. (14 oz.) caramels, unwrapped
1/4 cup milk

MIX flour, baking powder, cinnamon and salt. Set aside. Mix brown sugar, butter, eggs, vanilla and pecans in large bowl until well blended. Add flour mixture; mix well. Reserve 1 cup of the batter. Spread remaining batter into lightly greased foil-lined 13x9-inch baking pan. Bake in preheated 350°F oven 15 minutes or until firm.

MICROWAVE caramels and milk in microwavable bowl on HIGH 2 to 3 minutes or until caramels are completely melted, stirring after every minute. Cool 5 minutes or until slightly thickened. Pour over baked layer in pan, spreading to within 1/2 inch of edges. Drop reserved 1 cup batter by spoonfuls over caramel layer. Cut through batter with knife several times for marble effect.

BAKE 15 to 20 minutes longer or until center is set. Cool in pan on wire rack. Lift from pan. Cut into bars.

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pages 44-47 Vintage aluminum storage
caddy, \$99, vintage handmade cheese
box cabinet, \$399, and vintage cast-iron
milking stool, \$89; all from *relique.com*.
Antique shutters; *eloquence.com*.
Antique glass bottles, bottle drying
rack, European watering can; *blueocean*
traders.com for stores. Seagrass matting
rug, \$100 for 8' x 10'; *worldmarket.com*.

FARMHOUSE FRESH

page 54 White rockers, \$299; *berings*
.com. Tellepsen Landscaping Services;
tellepsenlandscaping.com. **page 57**
Double Sloan street shop light;
circularlighting.com. Pyne Hollyhock
shades; *fschumacher.com*. **page 58**
Moss Wishbone chair, \$1,425; *design*
withinreach.com. **page 59** Garden
Glories chintz fabric; *leejofa.com*. Dutch
industrial square coffee table, \$715;
restorationhardware.com. Cow painting;
maryhcase.com. **page 60** St. Andrew's
canopy bed, \$3,669; *sweetelle.com*. Elsie
de Wolfe fabric; *scalamandre.com* for
stores. Paul duvet in taupe, \$225, and
Elsie de Wolfe pillow, \$295; both from
biscuit-home.com. **page 61** Chene
wallpaper; *nobilis.fr*. Biddeford eyelet
fabric, \$100.50; *ralphlaurenhome.com*.
Helena bed; *olystudio.com*. **page 62**
Quincy bed, \$1,899; *ethanallen.com*.
Goose lamp, \$175, and Dew Drop
Confetti bolster, \$275; both from *biscuit-*
home.com.

NEUTRAL TERRITORY

page 75 Elizabeth green indoor/
outdoor rug, from \$130; *dashandalbert*
.com. **page 76** Salt & Pepper Carpet Bag
pillow; *adelenesimplecloth.com*. Sky Blue
Napoli vintage pillow, \$110; *lillianaugust*
.com. **page 78** Opal Bond lamp, \$319;
schoolhouseelectric.com.

AN EASY AND ELEGANT EASTER BRUNCH

page 93 Berry & Thread scallop dessert
plate, \$38; *juliska.com*. Sabre Tortoise
five-piece place setting, \$90; *yvonne-*
estelles.com. Bellezza white dinner plate,
\$45; *vietri.com*.

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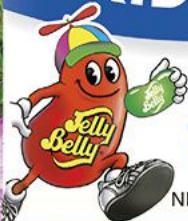


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